

Listing of Claims

1-55. Cancelled

56. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
selecting a child class from a class hierarchy, wherein
the class hierarchy comprises
the child class, and
a parent class,
the parent class and the child class are associated with one another,
the child class is configured to inherit an attribute of the parent class,
the child class comprises one or more associated attributes,
the one or more associated attributes comprise the attribute,
the one or more associated attributes are configured to describe an item,
the selecting the child class is based on the one or more associated attributes,
the selecting the child class is performed such that each of the one or more
associated attributes has a non-null value to describe the item,
the attribute has a first domain associated with the parent class and a second
domain associated with the child class, and
the second domain is more restrictive than the first domain;
associating [[an]] the item with [[a]] the child class, wherein
~~the class comprises associated attributes that describe~~
the attribute describes one or more members of the child class,
~~the associating comprises determining a class in a hierarchy,~~
~~the determining is based on associated attributes~~
the one or more associated attributes are necessary to describe the item, and
the one or more associated attributes are associated with the child class in the
class hierarchy[[, and]]
~~the associating the item comprises selecting the class such that each~~
~~associated attribute has a non-null value in describing the item;~~
storing a first record associating